

# Big River Journey 2006

## What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) is an integration of river and classroom experiences that connect 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-theme activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from among the many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey addresses state and district learning requirements.

## Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology\*
- Floodplain forest\*
- Dakota culture\*
- Soldier hike\*

\* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Field trip location

Mississippi River, on board the Harriet Bishop paddleboat. Trips travel between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, Saint Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

## Field trip dates & times

May 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 2006. Boat departs at 9:30 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Boat trip duration: 1\_ hours.

- **May 1-4 trips** are **round trips** from Harriet Island, St. Paul. Board 15 minutes prior to departure.
- **May 8-11 and 15-18 trips** are **one-way trips** that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (*note: this is not at “Historic Fort Snelling”*) as follows:

**\* Board paddleboat at 9:15 at Harriet Island, St. Paul, for a 9:30 departure.** Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partners. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 12:45 p.m. Your bus(es) will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

**\* Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) at 9:45** for a land-based session at 10:00 a.m. with state park or partner staff and time for a brown bag lunch. **Paddleboat departure is at 11:45 a.m.** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:30 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return busses will load.

## Participation requirements

1) Attendance at a **Big River Teacher Workshop** is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended in past five years. At the “Big River Workshop” teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher’s Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

### Workshop location:

Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Road near airport)

### Workshop dates (choose one):

- Thur, Feb 9, 2006 (9:00-2:00)
- Sat, Feb 11, 2006 (8:30-1:00)

### Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

### Workshop cost (donation):

\$15/person or \$25/school (non-refundable) is requested by January 30, 2006, to cover park entry and help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to “Mississippi National River & Recreation Area” and write “BRJ workshop donation” on the memo line. Send to:

Attn: Brian Goodspeed  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

## 2) Preparation and follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (ideas and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (info at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

**Field trip fee:** \$7.50/student

Field trip payments are handled by the *Padelford Packet Boat Co. Inc.*, (*ph: 651-227-1100*) which will contact you for billing if your school is chosen to participate.

## Scholarships

Scholarships are available for qualifying schools. Twin Cities Metro area schools with at least 50% participation in free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. Confirmation of eligibility must be provided in a written statement from your principal. Field trip fee for approved scholarship schools will be **\$2.50/student**. Schools must pay for their own busses. For further details call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297.

## ***BIG RIVER JOURNEY 2006 RESERVATION REQUEST FORM***

Selections for Big River Journey field trips are made through a drawing. To submit your school's request (*one request per school please*) fax or send this completed form so we receive it by **October 14, 2005**:

**School** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of students** (limits: 120/trip, 180/school) \_\_\_\_\_

**School address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City, state, zip code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contact email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade(s) (circle):**    4    5    6

**Best time to contact** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must fill in at least one, or check below):**

Thur, Feb 9, 2006 (9:00-2:00) Teachers who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Sat, Feb 11, 2006 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have attended workshop previously in past 5 years: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously in past 5 years, check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you requesting a scholarship** (note qualification requirements elsewhere in flyer)? YES / NO

**Reservation Scheduling:** Schools will be called in the order drawn beginning October 18 for scheduling. If you are not reached, a message will be left (if possible), and the next school will be contacted. Your prompt response will ensure best selection of trip date/time. Please be patient, as the process may take some time. At the completion of scheduling, non-selected schools will be contacted about other river-based learning opportunities.

**Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:**  
(must be received by Oct 14, 2005)

***Big River Journey Reservations  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256  
Fax: 651-290-3214***

**For further information:** Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297, or visit our website at  
***<http://www.nps.gov/miss> or <http://www.nps.gov/miss/programs/brj/index.html>***